

Appln. No. 09/911,522
Amendment dated December 15, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method implemented on an information
- 2 handling system for the automatic harvesting and qualification of dynamic
- 3 database content comprising:
- 4 obtaining an initial categorization structure for organizing a plurality
- 5 of subject areas of information;
- 6 obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists for optimizing
- 7 operation to a user's requirements;
- 8 obtaining a candidate database listing having a plurality of candidate
- 9 databases each having a collection of content;
- 10 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases from said
- 11 candidate database listing by matching ~~each~~ one of a candidate databases to
- 12 said plurality of subject areas of information;
- 13 obtaining a query from ~~the~~ a user, said query being associated with a
- 14 subject area;
- 15 submitting said query to said plurality of qualified databases;
- 16 acquiring a collection of responsive content from said plurality of
- 17 qualified databases;
- 18 indexing said responsive content to form an index of facilitating
- 19 searching said collection of responsive content;
- 20 publishing a summary of said collection of responsive content for
- 21 review by the user.

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1 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists further comprises:

3 obtaining an exclusion list providing a plurality of terms and sources
4 to inhibit associations for said step of acquiring a collection of responsive
5 content;

6 obtaining an inclusion list providing a plurality of terms and sources
7 restricting associations for said step of acquiring a collection of responsive
8 content;

9 obtaining a stop list providing a plurality of terms to be excluded for
10 said step of indexing said responsive content.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:

3 capturing an initial page from each one of said plurality of candidate
4 databases;

5 evaluating said initial page for relevancy to said each one of said
6 subject areas of information;

7 selecting databases according to relevance to said subject areas of
8 information;

9 associating said selected databases with said subject areas of
10 information.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2 obtaining a database relevancy parameter for restricting ~~the~~
3 qualification of databases below a minimum threshold value;

4 comparing the relevance of each initial page to said relevancy
5 parameter;

6 removing each candidate database with a relevancy below said
7 minimum threshold value from qualification.

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1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 submitting a query to each of said selected databases;
4 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content provided by each
5 of said selected databases;
6 evaluating each of said plurality of pieces of responsive content for
7 relevancy to said query;
8 assigning a numerical score to each one of said plurality of pieces of
9 responsive content, said numerical score representing a degree of relevance
10 to said query;
11 developing an aggregate score for each one of said selected databases;
12 qualifying a portion of said selected databases based upon said
13 aggregate score ~~to be pooled for content.~~

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of
2 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content further comprises:
3 obtaining a content parameter limiting the number of pieces of content
4 to be captured from each of said selected databases;
5 obtaining an initial weighting of each of said pieces of responsive
6 content from said selected database;
7 selecting a quantity of pieces of responsive content limited by said
8 content parameter such that pieces of responsive content with a relatively
9 greater initial weighting are selected before pieces of responsive content
10 with a relatively lesser initial weighting.

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1 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:

3 capturing an initial page from each of said plurality of candidate
4 databases;

5 evaluating said initial page for relevancy to said each of said subject
6 areas;

7 obtaining a database relevancy parameter for restricting the
8 qualification of databases below a minimum threshold value;

9 comparing the relevance of each initial page to said relevancy
10 parameter;

11 removing each candidate database with a relevancy below said
12 minimum threshold value from qualification;

13 selecting databases according to relevance to said subject areas;

14 submitting a query to said selected databases;

15 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content provided by said
16 selected databases;

17 obtaining a content parameter limiting the number of pieces of content
18 to be captured from said selected databases;

19 obtaining an initial weighting of each of said pieces of responsive
20 content from said database;

21 selecting a quantity of pieces of responsive content limited by said
22 content parameter such that pieces of responsive content with a relatively
23 greater initial weighting are selected before pieces of responsive content
24 with a relatively lesser initial weighting;

25 evaluating each of said plurality of pieces of responsive content for
26 relevancy to said query;

27 assigning a numerical score to each of said plurality of pieces of
28 responsive content, said numerical score representing a degree of relevance
29 to said query;

30 developing an aggregate score for each of said selected databases;

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31 qualifying apportion of said selected databases based upon said
32 aggregate score to be pooled for content;
33 associating said qualified databases with said subject areas.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4 databases for formatting
5 determining an input location on said initial page for passing queries
6 by from said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7 determining results locations for capturing search results returned
8 from each one of said plurality of databases;
9 recording said input location and said results locations for use in
10 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of acquiring a
2 collection of responsive content further comprises:
3 comparing each piece of responsive content to each one of said subject
4 areas in said initial categorization structure;
5 matching each piece of responsive content to subject areas based on
6 relevance of the responsive content to the subject areas;
7 filtering matches to optimize said categorization structure.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of filtering
2 matches further comprises:
3 removing duplicate pieces of responsive content;
4 obtaining a population parameter for limiting a number of pieces of
5 responsive content which may be matched to any one subject area;
6 obtaining an occurrence parameter for limiting a number of subject
7 areas to which any one piece of responsive content may be matched;
8 restricting matches for each one of said subject areas according to said
9 occurrence parameter and said population parameter.

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1 11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of filtering
2 matches further comprises:
3 obtaining an exclusion list to inhibit matches based on predetermined
4 words and sources;
5 obtaining an inclusion list to restrict matches based on predetermined
6 words and sources;
7 matching each piece of responsive content with subject areas
8 according to said exclusion list and said inclusion list.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 creating a categorization file for recording matches between each
3 piece of responsive content and each subject area;
4 saving said categorization file to a storage medium for use in
5 searching said collection of responsive content.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of indexing
2 said responsive content further comprises:
3 obtaining a stop list providing a list of words not to be indexed;
4 parsing each piece of responsive content into constituent words;
5 eliminating words of said responsive content occurring on said stop
6 lists;
7 recording a location of every occurrence of constituent words in said
8 collection of responsive content.

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1 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of publishing
2 a summary further comprises:

3 determining if a summary is provided for each piece of said responsive
4 content;

5 examining each piece of said responsive content for keywords
6 associated with each subject area;

7 developing a keyword summary score for each piece of responsive
8 content;

9 examining each piece of said responsive content for relevant extracts
10 forming an extract summary;

11 developing an extract score for each piece of responsive content;

12 comparing said keyword summary score to said extract score for a
13 summary composite score;

14 selecting said keyword summary if a predetermined summary value is
15 exceeded by said summary composite score;

16 selecting said extract summary if a predetermined summary value if
17 not exceeded by said summary composite score.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A system for the automatic harvesting and
2 qualification of dynamic database content comprising:

3 a computer system having a communication means for communicating
4 with at least one other computer including a database to facilitate ~~the~~ a two-
5 way flow of information between said computer system and the at least one
6 other computer;

7 said computer system having a storage means for retention and recall
8 of data communicated by or to the at least one other computer;

9 said computer system having a processing means for executing
10 multiple software modules and performing comparisons between a user
11 supplied query and a plurality of documents found in at least one other
12 computer;

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13 an index for storing a plurality of pre-approved internet sites to be
14 included in a series of queries;

15 a configuration module adapted for translating a generic query into
16 site-specific dialects such that a single user defined query may be directed
17 to multiple sites automatically;

18 a selection module adapted for characterizing said plurality of
19 documents returned by the database of the at least one other computer and
20 associated with said user defined query;

21 a results index to allow for rapid recovery of specific portions of any
22 one of said plurality of documents characterized by said selection module;
23 and

24 a generator module for automatically generating at least one results
25 page for the user conveying information associated with any one of said
26 plurality of documents associated with said query.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method implemented on an information
2 handling system for the automatic harvesting and qualification of dynamic
3 database content comprising:

4 obtaining an initial categorization structure for organizing a plurality
5 of subject areas of information;

6 obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists for optimizing
7 operation to a user's requirements;

8 obtaining a candidate database listing having a plurality of databases
9 each having a collection of content, each one of said plurality of databases
10 providing a dynamic response based upon a specific query;

11 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases from said
12 candidate database listing by matching each one of a candidate databases to
13 said plurality of subject areas;

14 obtaining a query from the user, said query being associated with a
15 subject area;

16 submitting said query to said plurality of qualified databases;

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17 acquiring a collection of responsive content from said plurality of
18 qualified databases;
19 indexing said responsive content to form an index of facilitating
20 searching said collection of responsive content;
21 publishing a summary of said collection of responsive content for
22 review by the user.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said step
2 of acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4 databases for formatting
5 determining an input location on said initial page for passing queries
6 by said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7 analyzing a results page from each one of said plurality of qualified
8 databases for formatting
9 determining results locations on said results page for capturing search
10 results returned from each one of said plurality of databases;
11 recording said input location and said results locations for use in
12 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

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1 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step
2 of acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4 databases for formatting;
5 determining an input location on said initial page for passing queries
6 by said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7 analyzing a results page from each one of said plurality of qualified
8 databases for formatting;
9 determining results locations on said results page for capturing search
10 results returned from each one of said plurality of databases;
11 recording said input location and said results locations for use in
12 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1 19 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases further comprises
3 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases each generating
4 dynamic responses based upon a user query.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of generating at least one summary comprising at least one extract
3 of relevant content taken directly from an associated at least one item in
4 said collection of responsive content from said plurality of qualified
5 databases.

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